

Power Plant Update

State to decide future of Carlsbad's coastline *City encourages attendance at upcoming hearings*

The California Energy Commission will meet in Carlsbad on Feb. 1-4 to hear testimony on a new power plant proposed for Carlsbad's coastline. The City of Carlsbad is opposed to building a new power plant at this location and encourages Carlsbad residents and businesses to make their views known to the state.

The authority to approve or deny this proposed power plant lies with the California Energy Commission, not the City of Carlsbad.

Public hearings*

Monday, Feb. 1, 2010

10:30 a.m. Expert testimony
6 p.m. Public comment

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2010

9 a.m. Expert testimony
6 p.m. Public comment

Hilton Garden Inn 6450 Carlsbad Blvd. Carlsbad, CA 92011

**Hearings continue Feb. 3 and 4 without a public comment period*



Why the city opposes this project

Location: Power plants no longer need to be built near the ocean. Today's modern plants are air-cooled, not water cooled. This project belongs in the city's industrial area, not along the beach.

Safety: The new plant has serious safety concerns. Carlsbad's own fire marshal has raised concerns about the city's ability to provide adequate fire protection at this location. And, this power plant would be just a stone's throw from the widened I-5, making it the closest power plant to a major freeway ever.

Air pollution: Since the new plant would run many more hours a day than the old generating units it would replace, the new plant would result in a tenfold increase in air pollution.

Visual blight: There is no way to screen the view of this plant. Building this plant condemns the North County coastline, and the gateway to the San Diego region's tourism economy, to another 50 years of heavy industry.

No guaranteed power for Carlsbad: There's no guarantee the energy produced by the plant will benefit our region. NRG does not have a contract with SDG&E to use the energy locally.

Before



After

Visual Simulation



Know the facts

Over the past two years since NRG proposed this project, community members have raised many questions. Here are some of the most frequently asked:

Does the desalination project depend on having a power plant on the coast?

No. Poseidon Resources, the developer of the desalination plant, has already planned on the old plant eventually being torn down. The desalination plant does not need a power plant operating next door.

Will the old plant be torn down if the new one is approved?

Plans for the new plant do not include tearing down the old one. The old plant will get torn down eventually, regardless of where the new plant gets built.

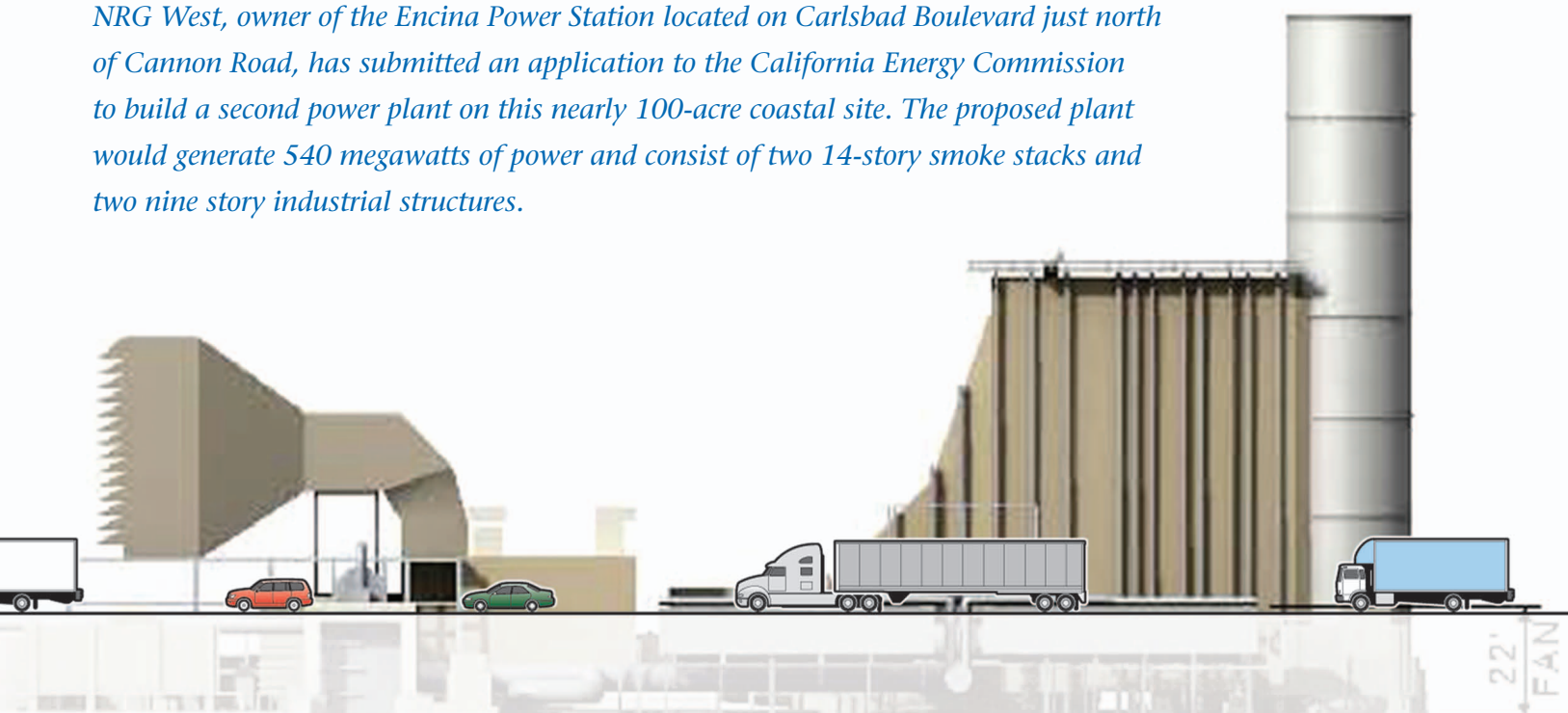
If other sites are available, why is NRG proceeding with the beachfront location?

NRG has said that since power infrastructure is already at this location, it is a good place for a new power plant. The City of Carlsbad thinks it is worth the effort to move this infrastructure – the cost would be more than offset in the long run by freeing up the coastal property for a use that better meets the needs of the community.

What would go on the property if there were no power plant?

The land is nearly 100 acres, about the size of the San Diego Zoo, meaning it could accommodate public and private uses appropriate for the coastal location that incorporate increased beach and lagoon access and open space. The city has already worked with the community to develop ideas for when the old plant is eventually torn down. If a new plant were allowed, options for what could be built there would be severely limited.

NRG West, owner of the Encina Power Station located on Carlsbad Boulevard just north of Cannon Road, has submitted an application to the California Energy Commission to build a second power plant on this nearly 100-acre coastal site. The proposed plant would generate 540 megawatts of power and consist of two 14-story smoke stacks and two nine story industrial structures.



Where else could the new plant be built?

Today's modern power plants are much easier to locate than the larger old-style power plants because they are smaller and no longer cooled by water. The county's power needs could be met by locating a new power plant anywhere in the region. The City of Carlsbad is willing to locate a new plant in its industrial area east of El Camino Real and North of Palomar Airport Road.

Don't we need the power?

Yes, although the need for local power is not as urgent as it was a couple of years ago. Energy demand in the region and across the state is down and not expected to increase as quickly as in the past. The Sunrise Powerlink project will bring more power to the region, including from renewable sources. The region's need for power could be met a number of ways and doesn't depend on this specific project.

Where would the power from this plant go?

NRG does not have a contract with SDG&E to sell the power locally. Without such an agreement, the power would likely be sold to Los Angeles or other cities outside of the San Diego region.

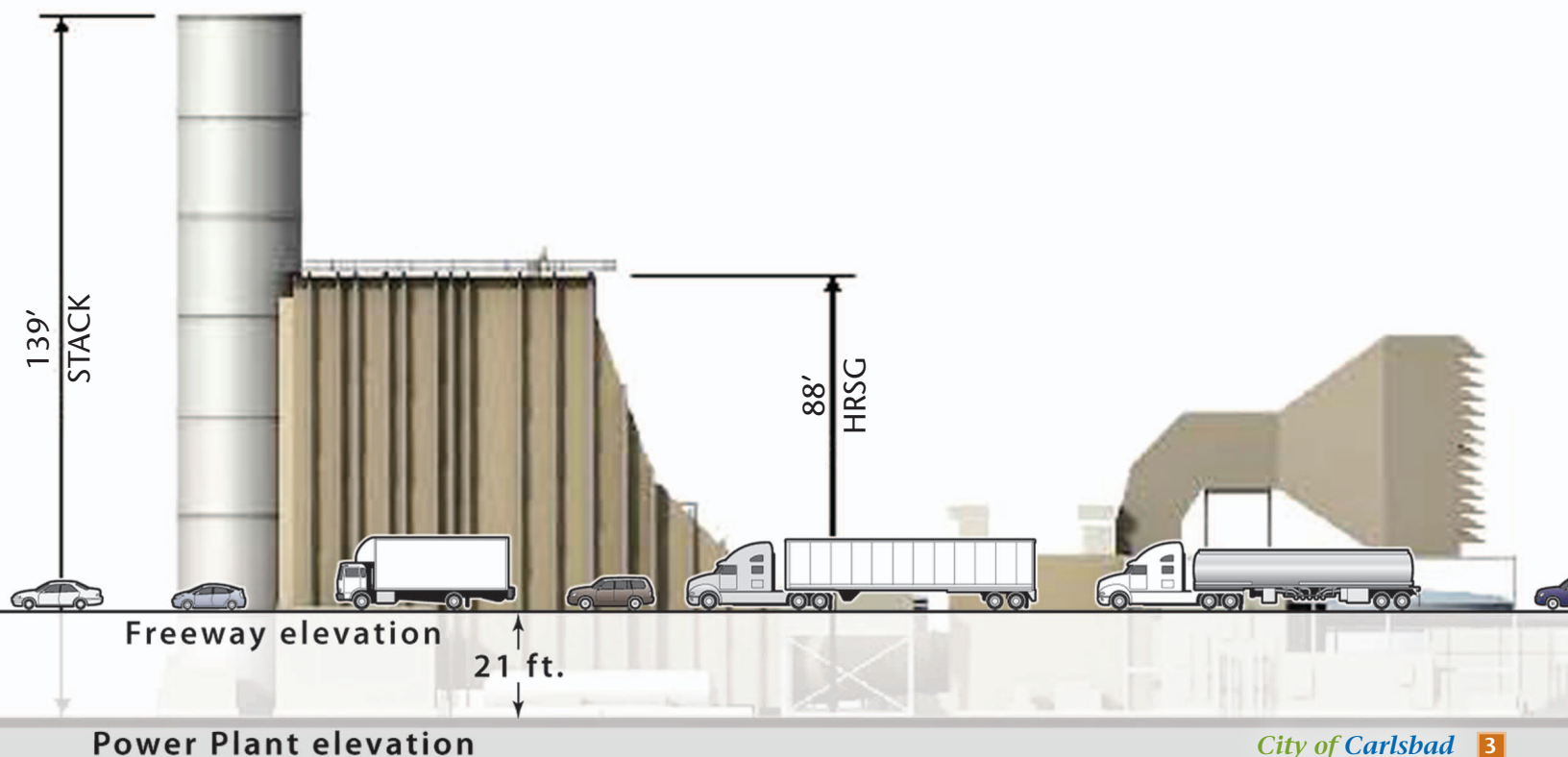
Unless the public speaks out, the state could make a decision that ruins our coastline, decreases property values and hurts the local economy.

Isn't this new plant "greener" than the old one?

Yes. The old plant is very inefficient and will be torn down eventually because using ocean water for cooling is no longer allowed. The City of Carlsbad supports the building of a new, more environmentally friendly power plant, just not on the coastline.

Why is the City of Carlsbad trying to get the public involved?

This decision will affect the Carlsbad community for generations to come. The city thinks it is important that the public understand what is being proposed and make their views known to the state. Unless the public speaks out, the state could make a decision that ruins our coastline, decreases property values and hurts the local economy.



City of Carlsbad
1200 Carlsbad Village Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92008

www.carlsbadca.gov

Power Plant Update



Get involved

In spite of the City of Carlsbad's opposition, staff of the California Energy Commission are recommending approval of this power plant project. The involvement of residents and businesses is critical to send a message to the state that we do not want heavy industry on North County's coastline. Commissioners will make the final decision. There is still time to make your views known.

- Attend the upcoming public hearings and speak during the public comment period.
- E-mail the California Energy Commission at PAO@energy.state.ca.us
- Call 1-800-822-6228 to voice your concerns.

